

Director’s Notes

The story of Floyd Collins in 1925 provided the backdrop for the first big media circus in the United States. It is a story of faith, family and the American Dream. The Post World War I agricultural depression of the early 1920s had many farming families struggling to survive. In Kentucky the locals fought to discover caves they could sell as tourist attractions. The cave closest to the road would attract the most business. This instigated the *cave wars* in which local “cappers” (they wore visored caps) were paid to deliver rerouted tourists to the smaller private caves. Thirty-seven-year old Floyd Collins had discovered Crystal Cave earlier in 1920 but it was the furthest cave from the main road. He was desperate to find a cave that was closer to the main tourist route. He discovered Sand Cave (which was the first cave on the Cave route) in January 1925 and became trapped in it. Within a week Floyd Collins was a household name. A truly American hero story – Floyd was a cave explorer, an entrepreneur, an adventurer and a businessman. He represents the American Dream that most citizens in 1925 couldn’t achieve. He was also a symbol for Americans who in 1925 felt “lost,” “stuck” or “trapped” in their lives despite their skills or ambitions. He was uneducated and grew up in the backwoods of Kentucky in a large family. In a desperate attempt to sell newspapers, most reporters disregarded the truth about Floyd and made up stories to sell papers. This makes his story still relevant today. In our present world of “alternative facts” we must ask the questions on a daily basis - what is the truth in the news? Only William Burke “Skeets” Miller provided authentic coverage of the story. Miller eventually won a Pulitzer Prize for his reporting on the Collin’s story. This musical examines the question of where is the humanity in the news stories we hear? Did we care about the human being – the man, or simply the fallen hero? There seems to be a mysterious force that propels people to pursue the American Dream while simultaneously celebrating and focusing on their crushed dreams.

- Marc

MUSICAL SYNOPSIS

The action takes place from January 30 - February 16, 1925 on Bee Doyle’s farm in Barren County, Kentucky, in and around a small opening in the ground which will later become known as “Sand Cave”

ACT I	
The Ballad of Floyd Collins.....	Jewell, Nellie, Homer, Miss Jane and Miller
Part One: The Cave	
The Call.....	Floyd
It Moves.....	Floyd
Time To Go.....	Floyd
Part Two: The Rescue	
Where a Man Belongs.....	Lee, Doyle, Miss Jane, Bishop, Jewell and Locals
Lucky.....	Nellie and Miss Jane
Daybreak.....	Homer and Floyd
The Ballad of Floyd Collins (Reprise)..	Jewell
I Landed on Him.....	Miller
An’ She’d Have Blue Eyes.....	Floyd
Heart an’ Hand.....	Miss Jane and Lee
The Riddle Song.....	Homer and Floyd

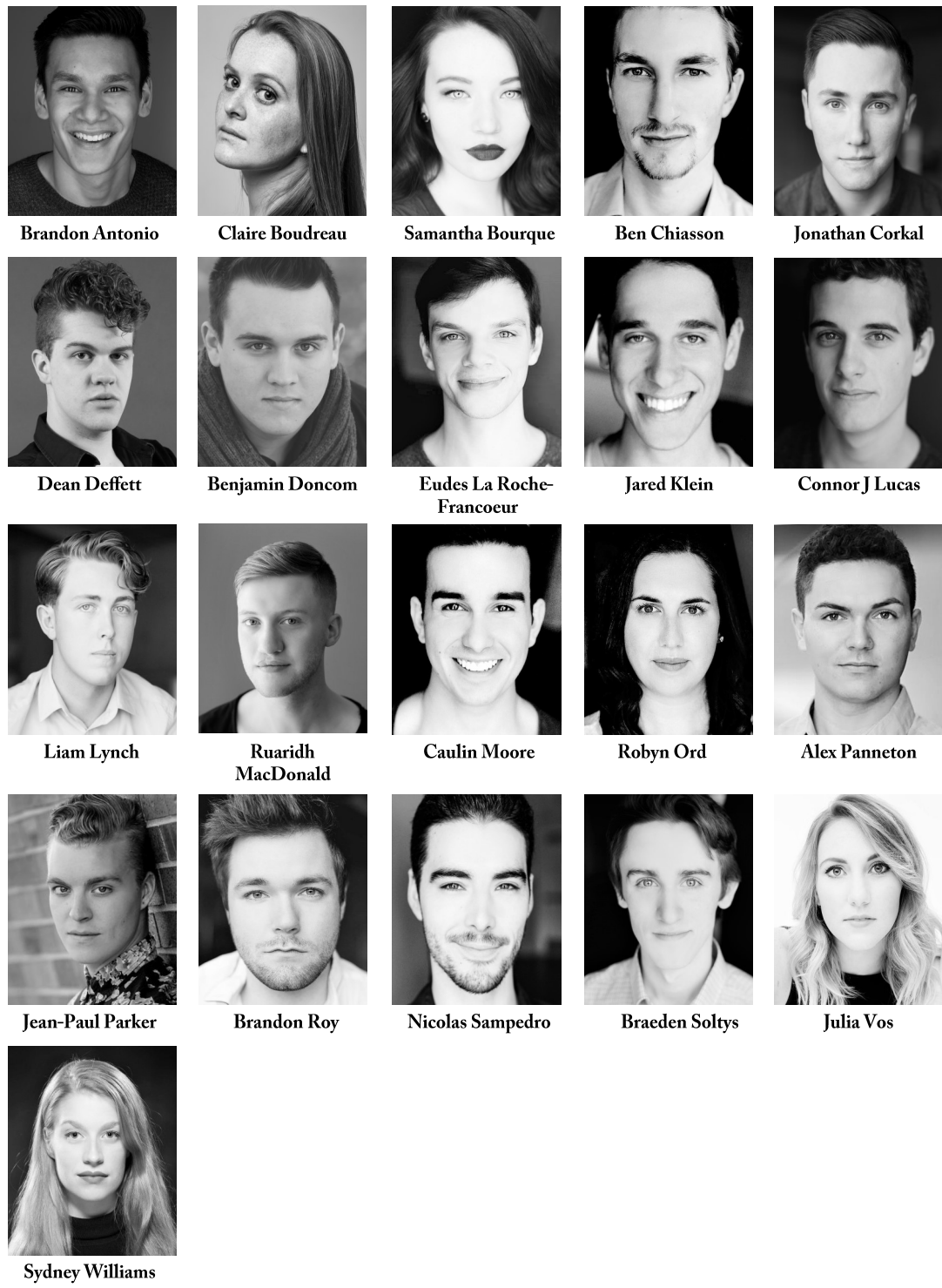
ACT II	
Part Three: The Carnival	
Is That Remarkable?.....	Company
The Carnival.....	Company
Through the Mountain.....	Nellie
Git Comfortable.....	Homer
The Ballad of Floyd Collins (Reprise)..	Jewell
The Dream.....	Company
How Glory Goes.....	Floyd

CAST in alphabetical order

Reporter, Local, Dr. Hazlett.....	Brandon Antonio
Ensemble.....	Claire Boudreau
Ensemble.....	Samantha Bourque
Floyd Collins.....	Ben Chiasson
Ensemble.....	Jonathan Corkal
Ed Bishop.....	Dean Deffett
Homer Collins.....	Benjamin Doncom
Ensemble.....	Eudes La Roche-Francoeur
H.T. Carmichael.....	Jared Klein
Skeets Miller.....	Connor J Lucas
Ensemble.....	Liam Lynch
Lee Collins.....	Ruaridh MacDonald
Reporter, Local, Fred Jordan.....	Caulin Moore
Miss Jane.....	Robyn Ord
Jewell Estes.....	Alex Panneton
Reporter, Local, Cliff Roney.....	Jean-Paul Parker
Bee Doyle.....	Brandon Roy
Ensemble.....	Nicolas Sampedro
Ensemble.....	Braeden Soltys
Nellie Collins.....	Julia Vos
Ensemble.....	Sydney Williams

Asisstant Director: Jared Klein
Assistant Music Director: Alex Panneton
Student Musicians: Alex Panneton, Ruaridh MacDonald, Braeden Soltys, Connor Lucas
Foley Sound Artists: Jonathan Corkal, Samantha Bourque, Nicolas Sampedro, Claire Boudreau, Sydney Williams, Braeden Soltys, Eudes La Roche-Francoeur
Rope Consultant: Claire Boudreau

Faculty Liaison: Suzanne Bennett



TECHNICAL CREW

Stage Manager.....Kathryn Urbanek
Assistant Stage Manager..... Kaitlynn Freeth
Audio Crew.....Sean Downing, Nicole Fontes
Carpentry Crew.....Lucas Andrews, Evan Brown, Michelle Camp, Sean Downing, Connor Haley, Ryan LePage, Erin Ocampo, Kirsten Trevors, Emma Westcott, Monyk Zahab

Head Lighting Technician.....Emily Whalley
Lighting Crew..... Nesta Cooper, Mark Greenwood, Jasper Jacobs, Serena Lee, Emma Miziolek, Fraser Normand, Stephanie Sintichakis, Joshua Thomas

Properties Crew.....Maya Bowers, Nathan Brown, Maeve Byrnes, Katie Fitzgerald, Laurel Lanaway, Kimberly Moreira, RJ Rothwell, Gil Ruston, Xu Jia Yi (Ray)

Scenic Paint Crew.....Catherine Germon, Tomas Hiseler, Amanda Jull, Nicola Murch, Emily Stevens-Nicholls, Kassidy Noble, Loralie Pollard, Jillian Wilson

Wardrobe Crew.....Natalie Burtch, Melanie Coomber, Haley Helm, Daniel Jakobi, Brittany Martin, Connor Millar, Shara-Lee Miller, Evelyn Pageau, Lilyan Stoddard, Mikayla Stranges

Assistant Technical Director..... Mary Reddon
Technical Assistants.....Matthew Blackwood, Gabriel Mazza, David Petrella
Production Assistants.....Jack Brown, Kaine Demerchant-Ross

Running Crew

Lighting Board Operator.....Jasper Jacobs
Sound Operator.....Sean Downing
Backstage Props.....Maya Bowers
Wardrobe Dressers.....Natalie Burtch, Haley Helm

Theatre Sheridan

Floyd Collins

Book by **Tina Landau**
Music and Lyrics by **Adam Guettel**
Additional Lyrics by **Tina Landau**

FLOYD COLLINS was commissioned by The American Music Theater festival, Philadelphia, which produced its world premiere in 1994
“Playwrights Horizons, Inc., New York City, produced FLOYD COLLINS Off-Broadway in 1996

Director: **Marc Richard**
Music Director: **Ryan deSouza**
Set Designer: **Denise Lisson**
Costume Designer: **Barbara Rowe**
Lighting Designer: **Sandra Marcroft**

The Band	
Ryan deSouza	Piano
Alex Grant	Cello
Alexander Luminsky	Accordion
Alex Panneton	Guitar/Banjo
Anna Redekop	Viola
Kathryn Sugden	Violin